UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: Mr. Mohr

DATE: February 7, 1964

FROM: C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT
ALLEGATIONS THAT OSWALD WAS
AN FBI INFORMANT

Pursuant to instructions, I saw Senator Jim Eastland at his office at 2:15 p.m., 2-7-64. I told him the Director was very concerned about the information received from him (Senator Eastland) and Jay Sourwine on 2-6-64 and that the Director, of course, wanted to set the record straight immediately. I then showed the Senator a copy of the sworn affidavit which had been executed by the Director and delivered earlie that day to Rankin of the Presidential Commission. The Senator read the affidavit and then described it as a document that very obviously ties everything down.

I told Senator Eastland that we respected his confidence, however, would appreciate permission to see other Senators whom he indicated had an interest in this matter. He told me that he thought we should see Senators Russell and Hruska immediately, however, Senator Dirksen was at Sibley Hospital at the present time.

I then went to Senator Dick Russell's Office and upon seeing him mentioned that it was understood that he was cognizant of the false allegation that Oswald had once been an FBI informant. The Senator acknowledged that he knew of Wade's statements to the Commission. I then showed Senator Russell the Director's affidavit whereupon he read it in its entirety. He described it as a good affidavit and one that should forever straighten this rumor out. He added that there are so many rumors about the assassination that almost any individual can pay a quarter and take his pick. He continued that in all honesty Henry Wade had specifically told Commission members that the allegation concerning Oswald's being an FBI informant had been received by him from a newspaperman named Hudkins. The Senator stated that Wade made it plain that he had no personal knowledge that Oswald had been an FBI informant. The Senator added that Wade was told to return to Dallas and recontact Hudkins for further information. Senator Russell stated that Wade had reported back to the Commission that Hudkins had no further information, could not substantiate his allegations and had refused to testify or furnish an affidavit to the Commission.

Enclosure

1 - Mr. Tolson
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Jones
1 - Mr. Morrell

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Re: Assassination of the President
Allegations that Oswald was an FBI Informant

I next saw Sourwine. After reading the affidavit, he stated he was very positive it should put to rest all rumors. I told Sourwine that I felt certain he realized that the FBI's reputation could be at stake in the event such a vicious rumor was widespread publicity. I told him for this reason I would have to insist that his source in this particular matter be identified. I reminded Sourwine that he had told me in Senator Eastland's presence that his source was an employee of the Department of State who later had reconfirmed the information with CIA. Sourwine interrupted me to state that he had not indicated that his source was with the State Department. He stated his exact words were, "This matter has been motivated, in my opinion, by the State Department." I told Sourwine that my notes, made immediately after the conference with him and Senator Eastland, were very clear on this matter and that I felt certain he had attributed this information to a source within the Department of State. He replied that if he had done this he was in error. He said however that his source had definitely reconfirmed this information with CIA.

I told Sourwine that regardless of the agency with whom his source was employed, I would have to know the identity of such a source so that all strings could be tied down in this matter. Sourwine agreed to call his source in my presence and ask him if he would object to his identity being revealed. At that time Sourwine dialed a number and asked the person answering the phone if he would object to his identity being revealed to the FBI in connection with the Oswald-informant information. After a few moments, Sourwine turned to me and stated that his source would have to think about the matter and he would let me know later on during the evening. Sourwine stated that his source was somewhat reluctant to having his identity revealed inasmuch as the source identity would immediately lead the FBI to the identity of a second source within CIA. I told Sourwine that if CIA was putting out such scurrilous rumors, that agency should definitely be tied down and made to put up or shut up.

Following the discussion concerning the identity of Sourwine's source, Sourwine told me that he had talked to Senator Russell earlier that afternoon. Senator Russell, according to Sourwine, stated in strict confidence that he was very disturbed about the activities of the Warren Commission. He claimed that he was considering resigning from this Commission. Senator Russell reportedly told Sourwine that five out of six senior lawyers employed by the Commission are extreme liberals and that all of the young lawyers are very liberal-minded. Senator Russell allegedly told Sourwine that each employee of the Commission has a definite area of investigation assigned to him. He mentioned that despite attempts at coordination, the individual employees have haphazardly pooled their investigative information without attempting to centralize or coordinate any facts whatsoever. Senator Russell is also very disturbed about Chief Justice Warren and his inability to handle the assignment as Chairman of this Commission.

After exacting a statement from Sourwine that he would call me later on that evening concerning his source, I went over to the Senate Floor and contacted Senator Hruska. We went up to his private office in the new Senate wing of the Capitol and talked for approximately three minutes when Senator Hruska found it necessary to return to the Floor in order to make remarks concerning tax legislation. Following his return, I showed him the Director's sworn affidavit. Senator Hruska expressed the opinion that it was very thorough and certainly left no doubts whatsoever. He asked if it could be possible that Oswald had an alias and had served the FBI as an informant using an alias or different name. I told him there was no possibility whatsoever of such an incident occurring inasmuch as our investigation had very thoroughly checked out all names used by Oswald. Senator Hruska stated this satisfied him.

Senator Hruska added that Senator Dirksen was most concerned about this matter, chiefly because Senator Dirksen felt that this was an attempted smear at the Director and the FBI. He stated that Senator Dirksen had also feared that this matter could completely discredit the FBI if some disreputable or left-wing Senator made a speech on the Floor of the Senate or issued a press release regarding the matter. He added that Senator Dirksen's friendship for the Director was a very sincere thing and, therefore, the Senator felt very keenly about this matter. He asked if I would accompany him to Sibley Hospital immediately so that we could talk to Senator Dirksen regarding this matter.

At this point I telephonically contacted the Director while Senator Hruska was out of the room and advised the Director of the foregoing details.

Senator Hruska and I arrived at Senator Dirksen's hospital room at approximately 6:15 p.m. Mrs. Dirksen was in the room at the time. She has recently undergone surgery. (The Director has sent a letter to Senator Dirksen regarding the illness of his wife.) I assisted Mrs. Dirksen down the hall and then came back to join Senators Dirksen and Hruska.

Senator Hruska told Senator Dirksen that I had an affidavit signed by the Director which should definitely put Senator Dirksen's mind at ease. Senator Hruska told Senator Dirksen that he felt this affidavit would be of therapeutic value to him inasmuch as it was known that he was very worried about this situation. I then showed Senator Dirksen a copy of the sworn affidavit. He read the letter to Rankin very rapidly and handed both the letter and affidavit back to me. I told him I realized that our visit was somewhat of an imposition, however, I would appreciate it if he would briefly scan the entire affidavit. He did so and afterwards stated that it was a very complete document and that he felt much better about the situation. He added that he had several questions. I told him the Director would want me to answer any questions that he might raise.

Senator Dirksen inquired if District Attorney Henry Wade had any connections with the Communist Party. I told him Wade had no such connections to our knowledge. I briefed both Senators at this time, however, on the scurrilous article in Saga Magazine by former Agent Turner, also the article in Nation magazine and the offensive by the Communist Party in connection with attempting to discredit the FBI. Senator Hruska inquired as to whether Wade was a publicity seeker. I told him that the answer to this was obvious in view of the many statements made by Wade, even including information which had been furnished by the FBI.

Tolson Gen Counsel J. Lee

Senator Dirksen asked me if we were satisfied with Rankin. I told him that Rankin had been appointed as an alternative. I then briefed Senators Dirksen and Hruska on the fact that Chief Justice Warren had first wanted his protege Warren Olney to serve as Executive Secretary of the Presidential Commission, however, in view of Olney's miserable personality and inefficiency it had been necessary for a number of sources to confidentially brief members of the Presidential Commission, other than Warren, as to Olney's background. I told Senators Dirksen and Hruska that as a result of this action the Commission members had overridden Warren concerning the appointment of Olney and that Rankin had been elected as an alternative. Dirksen stated he knew Olney and definitely recognized him as an inefficient nincompoop.

Senator Dirksen stated that he had no further questions but that he would appreciate the Director being advised that his chief interest in this entire matter was to prevent the FBI or the Director from being smeared. He stated that despite his illness if we needed his services we could certainly count upon him to start a backfire against any individual or group which might attempt to discredit the Director or the FBI.

I told both Senators Dirksen and Hruska that we deeply appreciated their interest in this matter and that I would immediately advise the Director whom I felt would be greatly appreciative of their friendship and willingness to assist the FBI.

Upon arriving back at my office, Inspector Kemper advised me that Sourwine had called at approximately 6:10 p.m. to advise that his source did not want to give an absolute "no" to the FBI, that the source was checking further and would give an answer either the first of the week or the middle of next week. We, of course, will not allow this matter to lie idle. Sourwine will be contacted first thing Monday morning and pressed for action.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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DeLoach to Mohr 2-7-64
Re: Assassination of the President
Allegations that Oswald was an FBI Informant

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) That the attached letter for the Director's signature acknowledging the Director's appreciation for Senator Dirksen's assistance and interest be considered.

OK.
H.

(2) That I check with Sourwine first thing Monday morning in order to further press the matter of learning the identity of his source of information.

Yes.
H

(3) That I show a copy of the Director's affidavit, in strict confidence, to Congressman Hale Boggs and Congressman Jerry Ford, members of the Presidential Commission, on Monday, 2-10-64, and that I show a copy of this affidavit and thoroughly brief Walter Jenkins of the White House on Monday, 2-10-64.

Yes.
H
R